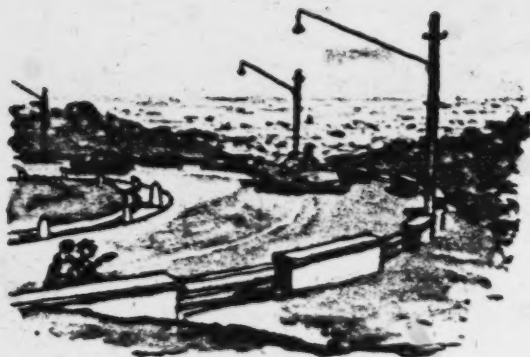




Kahlenberg: The Höhenstrasse.

legally embodied in the new building regulations of 1930. These put an end to the traditional construction for profit of tenement barracks with kitchens opening only on to an interior corridor, so-called "light-shafts" and back blocks. Since then, Vienna's housing principles have been adopted by many countries. They served as a model for the great building programme of the British Government, and have even influenced projects for the building of millions of flats in the United States.

A radical change has also taken place in the administration of the public utility services of the Municipality. The principle that costs only should be covered was introduced—i. e. the monopoly undertakings have to be self-supporting without trying to earn a profit for the municipal exchequer. In this way every improvement, every reduction of costs is a direct gain to the consumer—the Vienna public as a whole. At the same time extensive modernisations of all these undertakings were carried out. The Vienna gasworks were transformed into a great chemical factory which was enabled through its by-products to play an important rôle in the country's economy. The municipal electricity works were provided with new machinery and water-power plants were constructed. Gas and electric light became so cheap in this way that it was possible to introduce them to almost every Vienna household.

With these great innovations in the service of the masses (which made heavy demands on municipal finances), the position of municipal employees was put on an entirely fresh basis. Not only were working conditions improved for all